

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07648 131550Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /053 W

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R 131524Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 7648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CG

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE TUNG

1. DEATH OF MAO IS BEING WIDELY COVERED BY ZAIRIAN MEDIA. FOR LAST 3 DAYS, LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HAVE RECALLED MOBUTU'S 1973 AND 1974 PRC VISIT, STRESSED MAO'S STERLING QUALITIES, ROLE PRC HAS PLAYED IN AFRICA AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MAO AND MOBUTU. REACTION OF GOZ TO DEATH WAS PERSONAL LETTER OF CONDOLENCE BY PRESIDENT, FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF 3 DAYS MOURNING FROM NOON SEPTEMBER 10 TO NOON SEPTEMBER 13, WITH ALL FLAGS LOWERED TO HALF MAST.

2. TELEVISION AND RADIO HAVE BEEN REplete WITH FUNERAL DIRGES AND COMMENTARIES ON MAO'S LIFE. SEPT. 12 EDITION OF TELEVISION EVENING NEWS TRANSMITTED CHINESE BROADCAST OF FUNERAL PROCEEDINGS IN PEKING. BROADCAST INCLUDED SHOWING LONG LINES OF MOURNERS AS WELL AS ENUMERATION AND PICTURES OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN PRC HIERARCHY.

3. COMMENT: EXTENT TO WHICH GOZ HAS GONE TO COMMEMORATE MAO'S PASSING SHOWS RELATIVELY GOOD STANDING PRC CONTINUES TO ENJOY IN ZAIRE. AT SAME TIME, MOBUTU MAY HAVE SEIZED OPPORTUNITY, FOLLOWING MODERATE GOZ STANCE AT COLOMBO, TO SIGNAL GOZ REMAINS TRULY NON-ALIGNED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1976  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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